

Contents lists available at [SciVerse ScienceDirect](http://SciVerse.ScienceDirect.com)

Theoretical Computer Science

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/tcs

Obituary for Sheng Yu

Professor Sheng Yu passed away on January 23, 2012, in London, Ontario. He was only sixty one years old. He will be remembered for his exceptional contribution and incredible dedication to Theoretical Computer Science and Automata Theory.

Sheng Yu left China in 1980 and he completed his Master's in 1982 and his Ph.D. in 1986 at the University of Waterloo. He was professor for a few years at the University of Kent State and he then joined the Computer Science Department of the University of Western Ontario.

Sheng Yu was an outstanding computer scientist. From 1984 onwards, he published numerous and sound papers (more than one hundred and fifty publications) in several fields of Theoretical Computer Science. He developed fruitful collaborations with many scientists, including very well-known ones. Among the automata community, his name is associated in particular with the notion of a cover automaton, the implementation of alternating automata, the investigation of RegExp properties and a series of significant results on the state complexity of regular operators. Furthermore he had a broad scope and he was also interested by applied domains, such as computer architecture and programming languages that he used to teach besides automata theory.

The exceptional contribution of Sheng Yu to Theoretical Computer Science and Automaton Theory is measured not only by the impact of his research work but also by his implication in the development and the organization of scientific events. Sheng Yu and Derick Wood created in 1996 the CIAA conference (International Conference on Implementation and Application of Automata). At first it was a workshop (WIA) and thanks to the dynamism of Sheng Yu, it has been a well-established conference since 2000. Sheng was an active Chair of the Steering Committee of CIAA from 2001. Everybody remembers his bright talks and also his great human warmth and unbounded availability.

He was an important part of the CIAA'2011 where once again his warmth and friendliness shone through. He made a moving tribute to his friend Derick Wood, with whom he collaborated for nearly thirty years. Sheng Yu will be with us forever, but we will miss him as a colleague and as a friend.

Béatrice Bouchou-Markhoff
Université François Rabelais Tours, LI 41000 Blois, France

Pascal Caron*
Jean-Marc Champarnaud
LITIS, Université de Rouen, 76801 Saint-Etienne du Rouvray, France
E-mail address: pascal.caron@univ-rouen.fr (P. Caron).

Denis Maurel
Université François Rabelais Tours, LI 37000 Tours, France

* Corresponding author.